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Holford

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(54) **PACKAGE FOR SMOKING ARTICLES**

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(73) Assignee: **British American Tobacco (Investments) Limited**, London (GB)

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B65D 5/66 (2006.01)

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CPC ***B65D 85/1045*** (2013.01); ***B65D 5/6691*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC B65D 85/1045; B65D 85/1081; B65D 5/543; B65D 85/12; B65D 85/1027; B65D 75/38
USPC 206/266, 274, 273, 271, 268, 265, 264, 206/259, 245, 242, 261, 270; 229/87.13, 229/114, 146, 160.1, 148, 931, 920, 125.28, 229/125.29, 150, 149, 225, 87.2, 87.14
See application file for complete search history.

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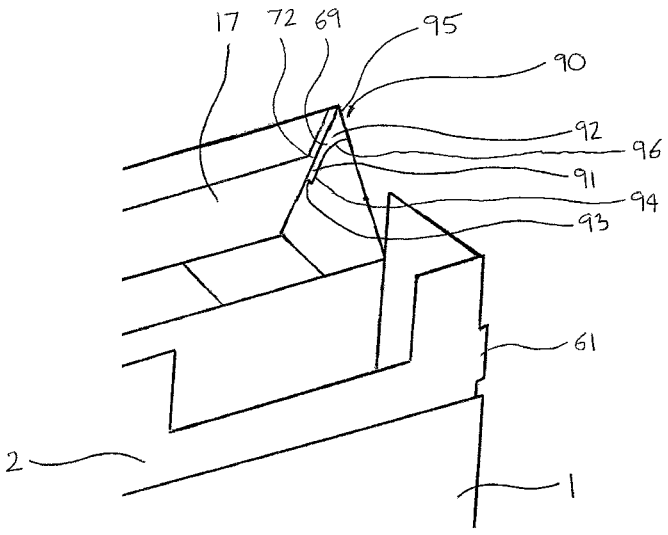
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A package for smoking articles comprising a body (**3**) and a lid (**17**) hingedly connected to the body to enclose a space defined by the body when the lid is closed, the lid including an end portion and a wall extending from the end portion that overlaps a face of the body when closed, wherein a recess (**68**) is formed in the wall and a tab (**60**, **61**) extends from said face, such that, when the lid is closed, the tab locates in said recess.

21 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets



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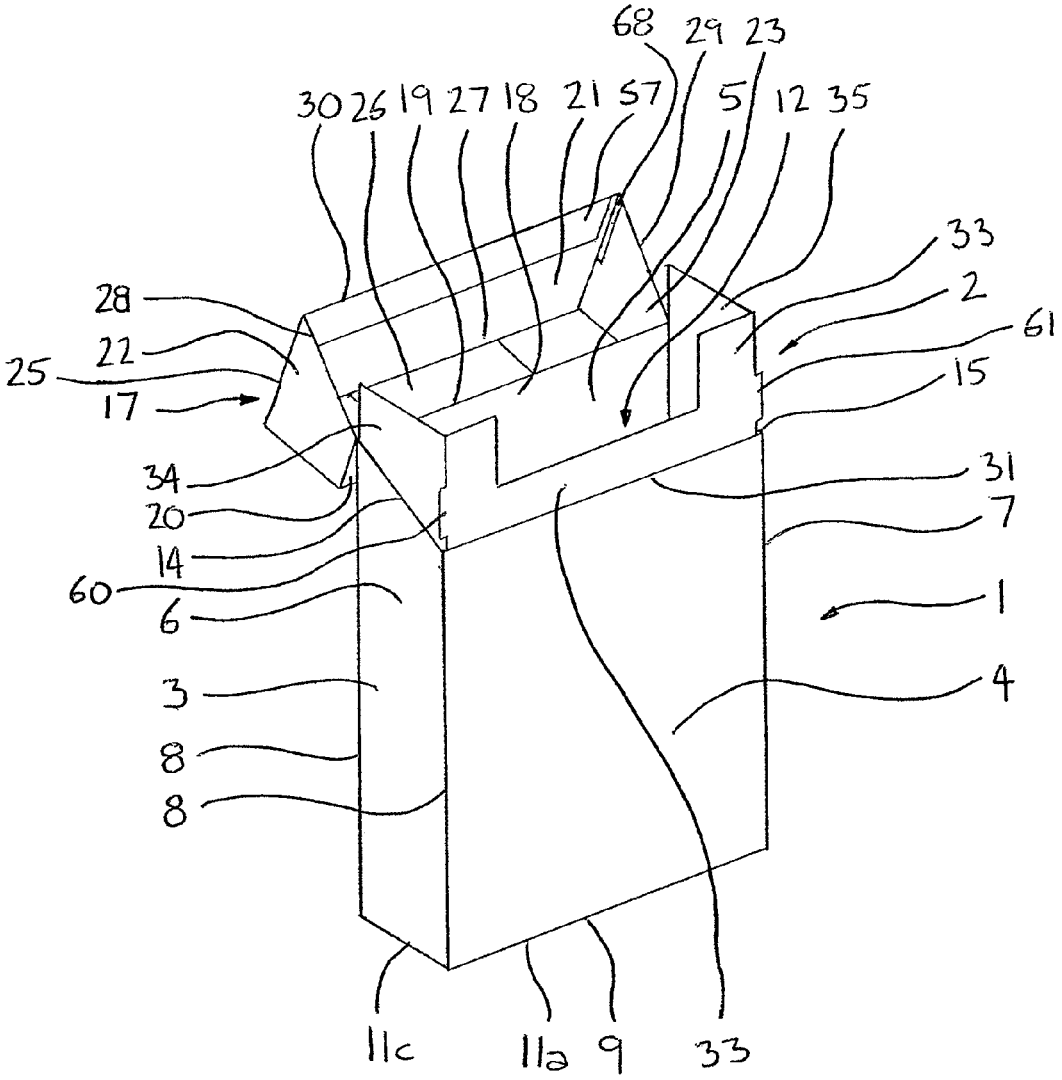
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FIGURE 1

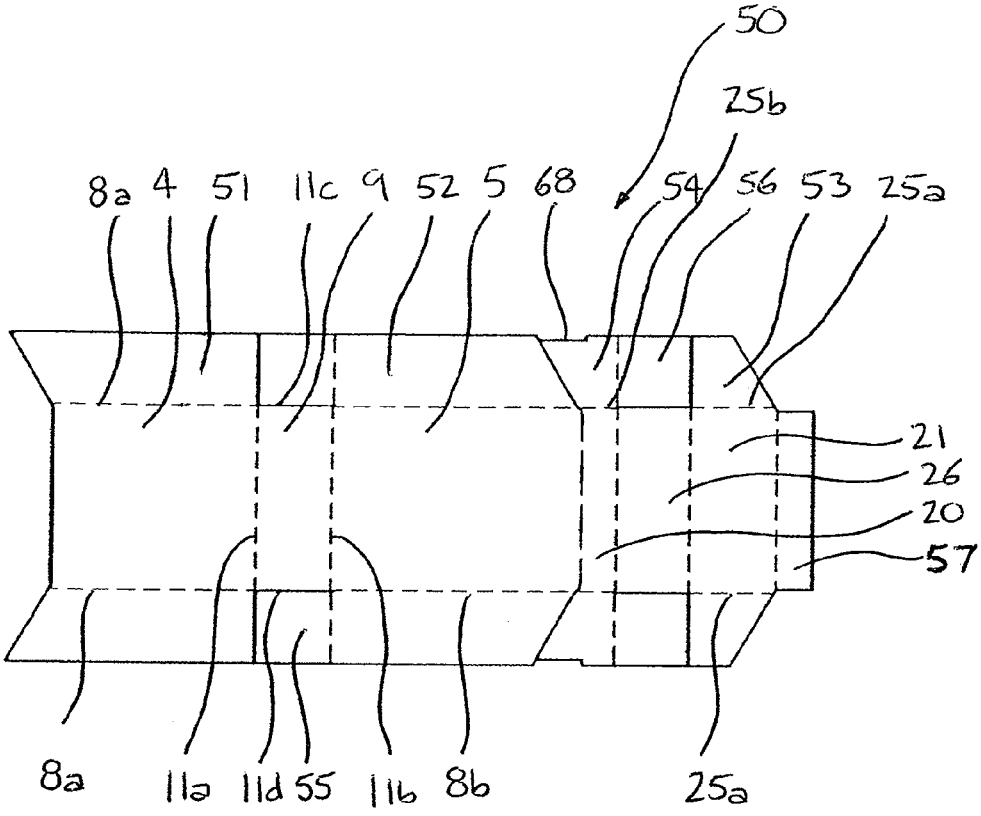

FIGURE 2

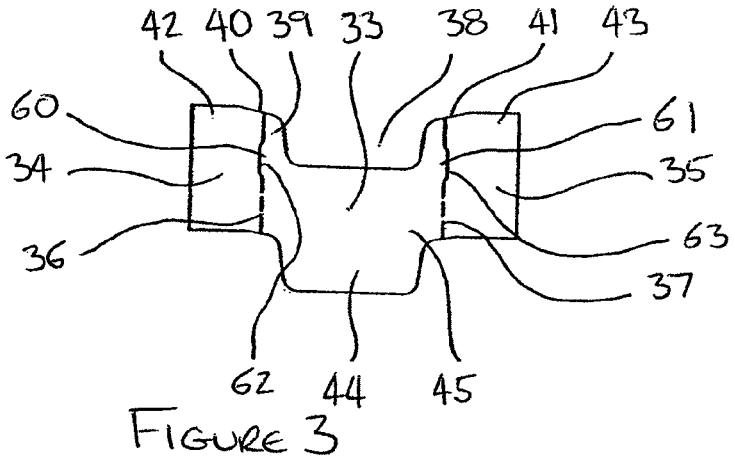

FIGURE 3

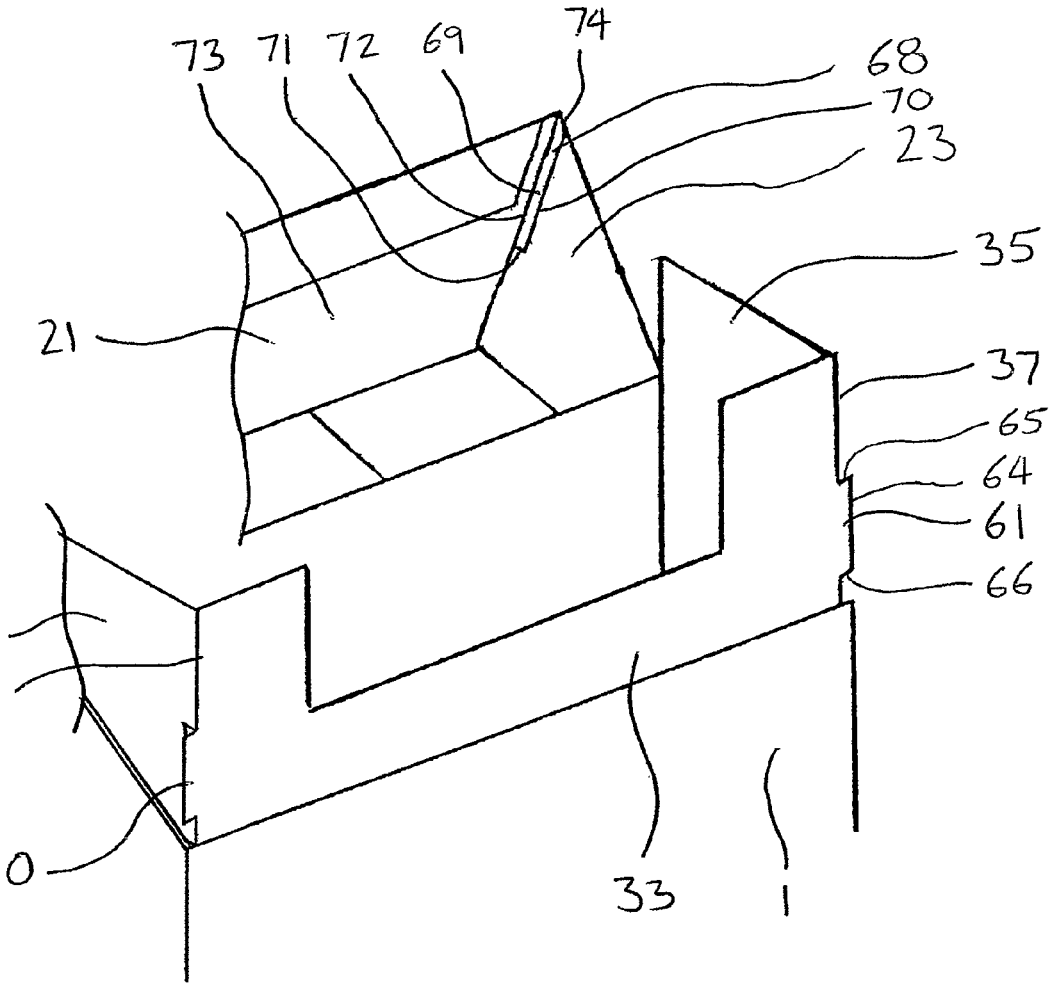

FIGURE 4

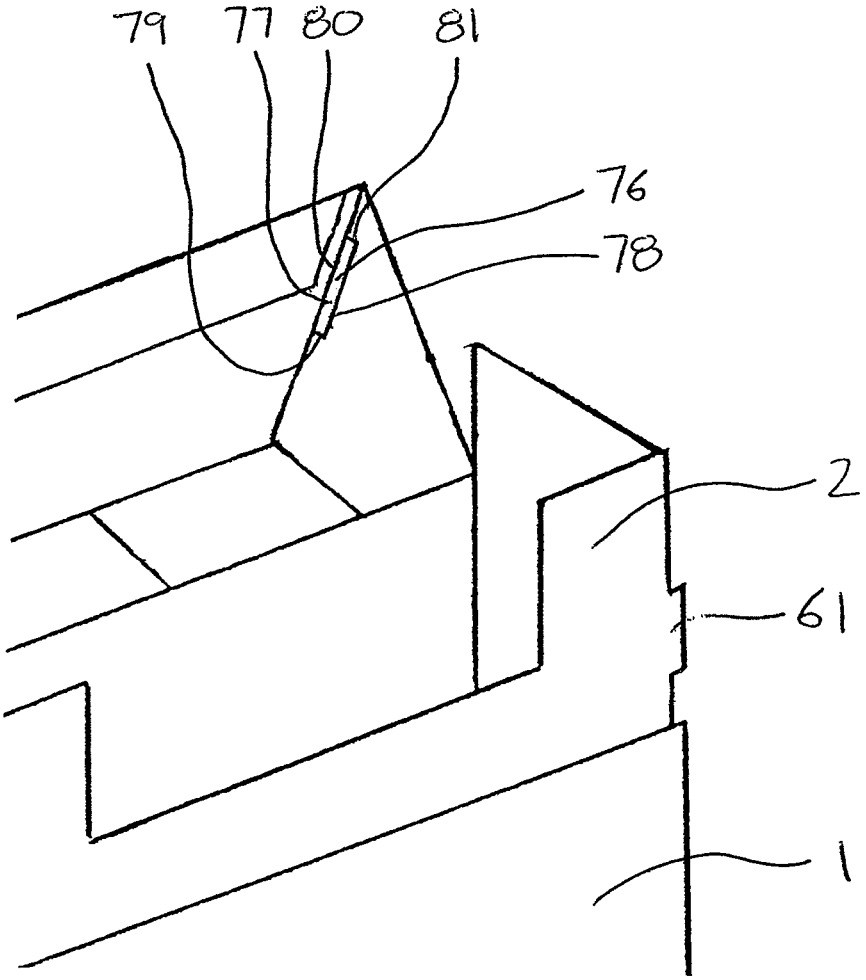

FIGURE 5

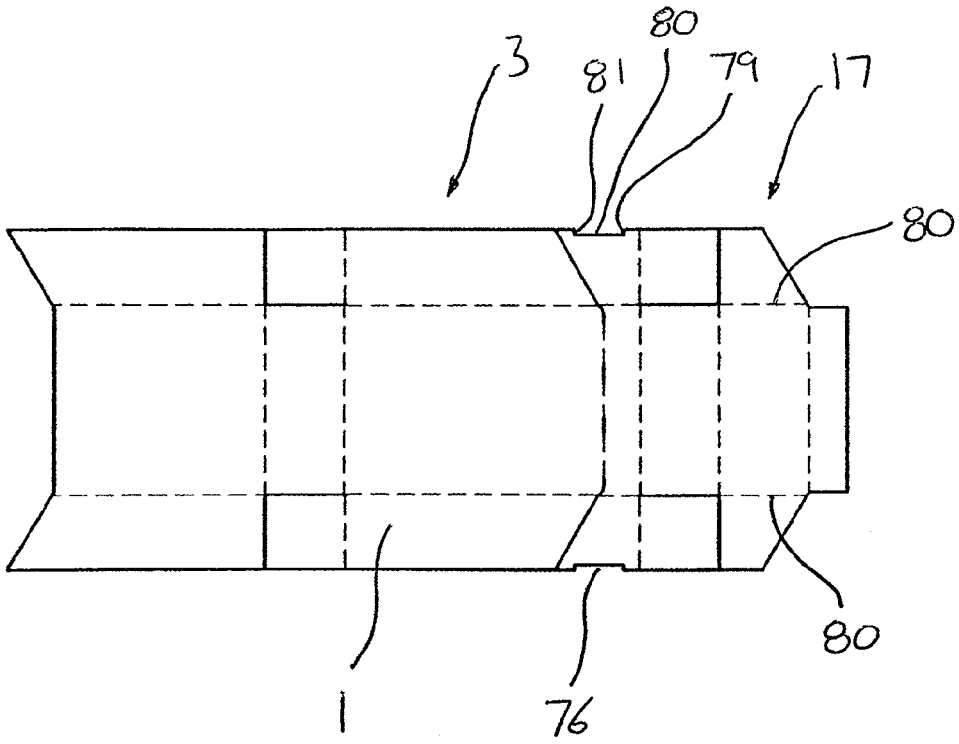

FIGURE 6

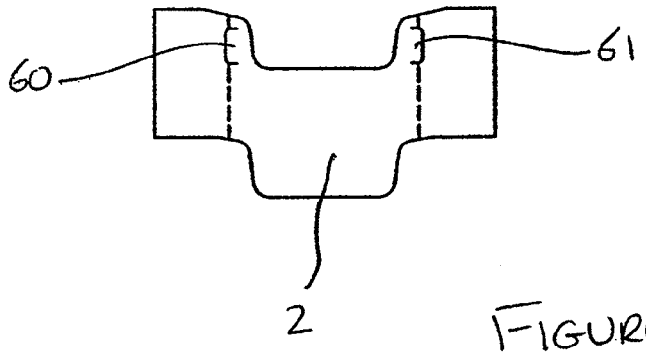

FIGURE 7

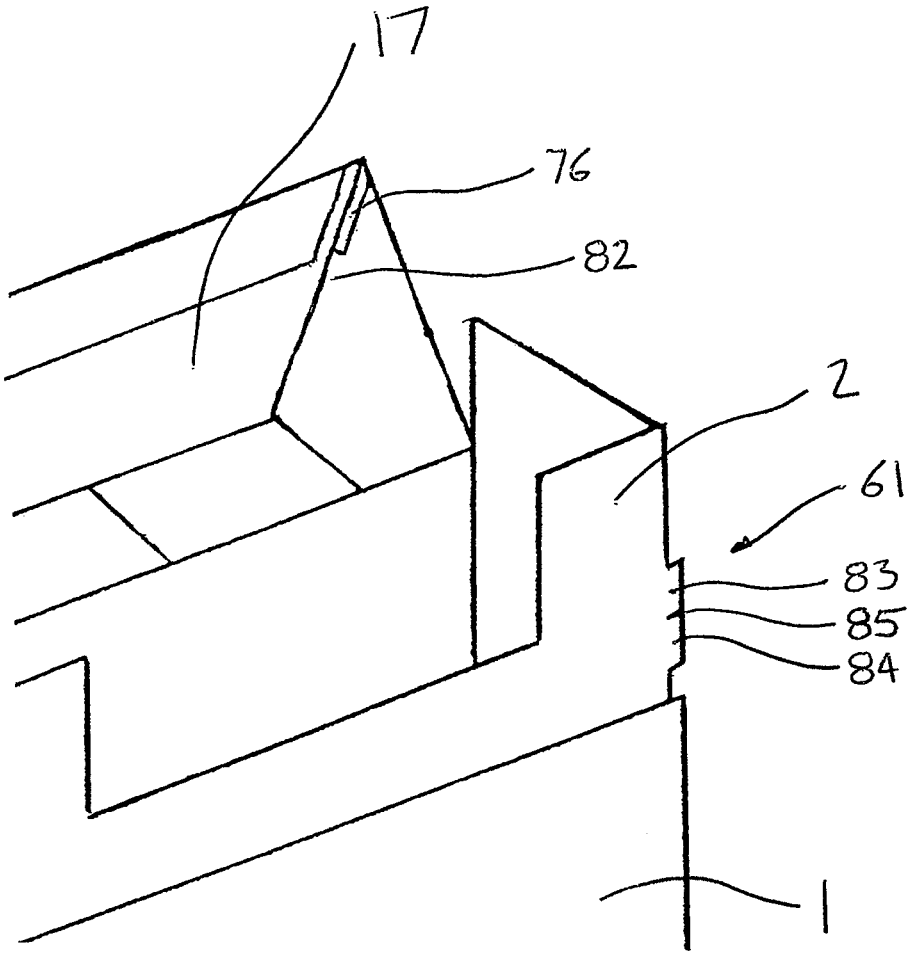

FIGURE 8

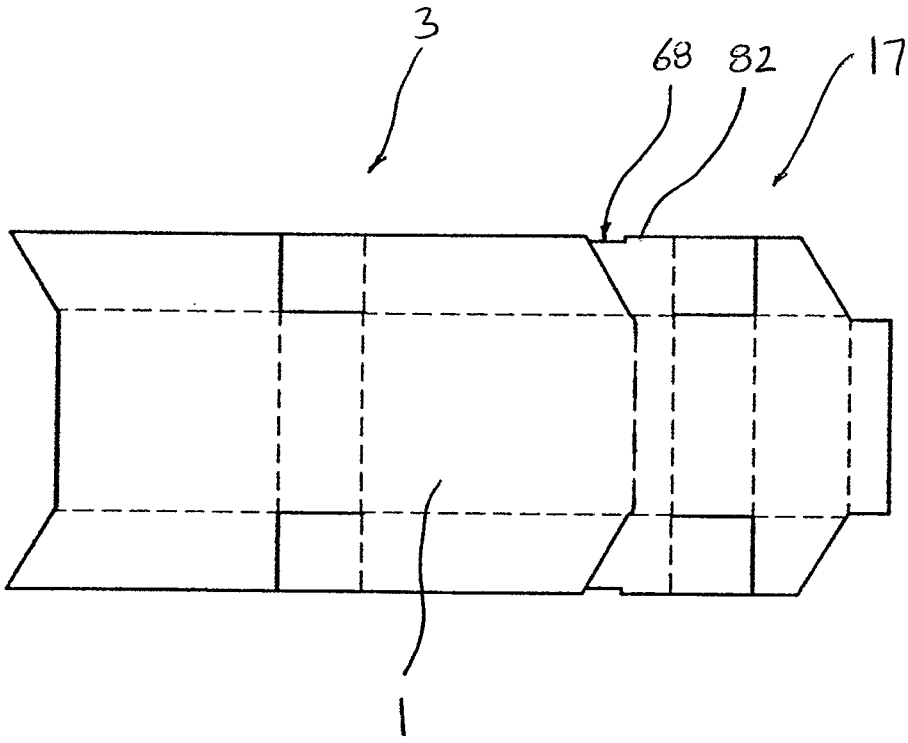

FIGURE 9

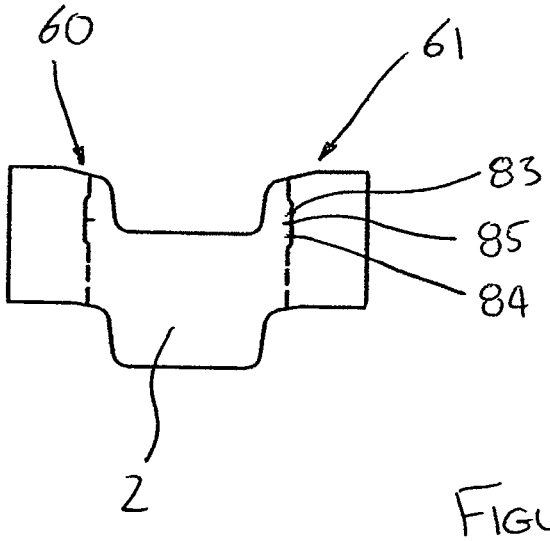

FIGURE 10

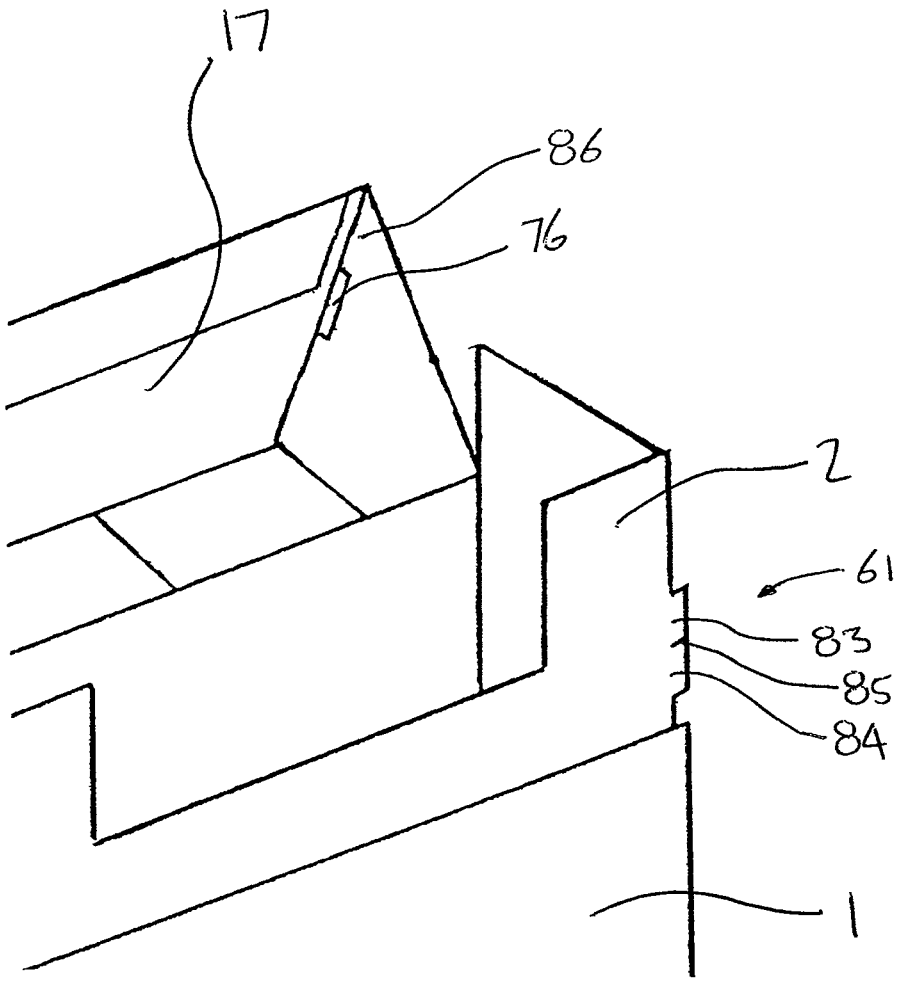

FIGURE 11

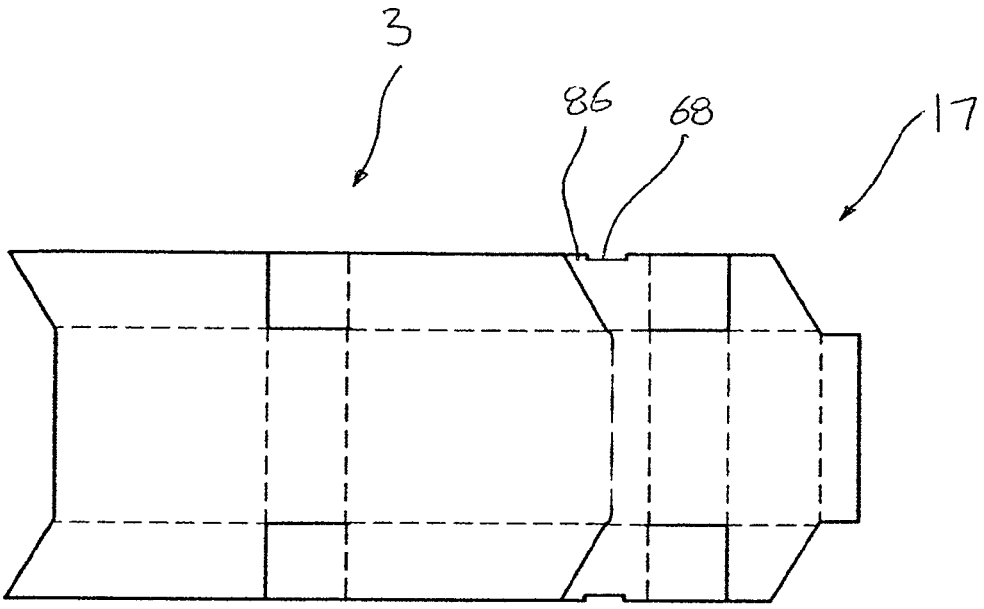

FIGURE 12

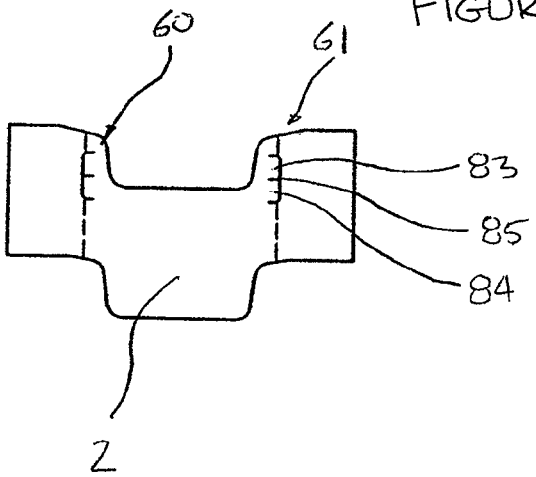

FIGURE 13

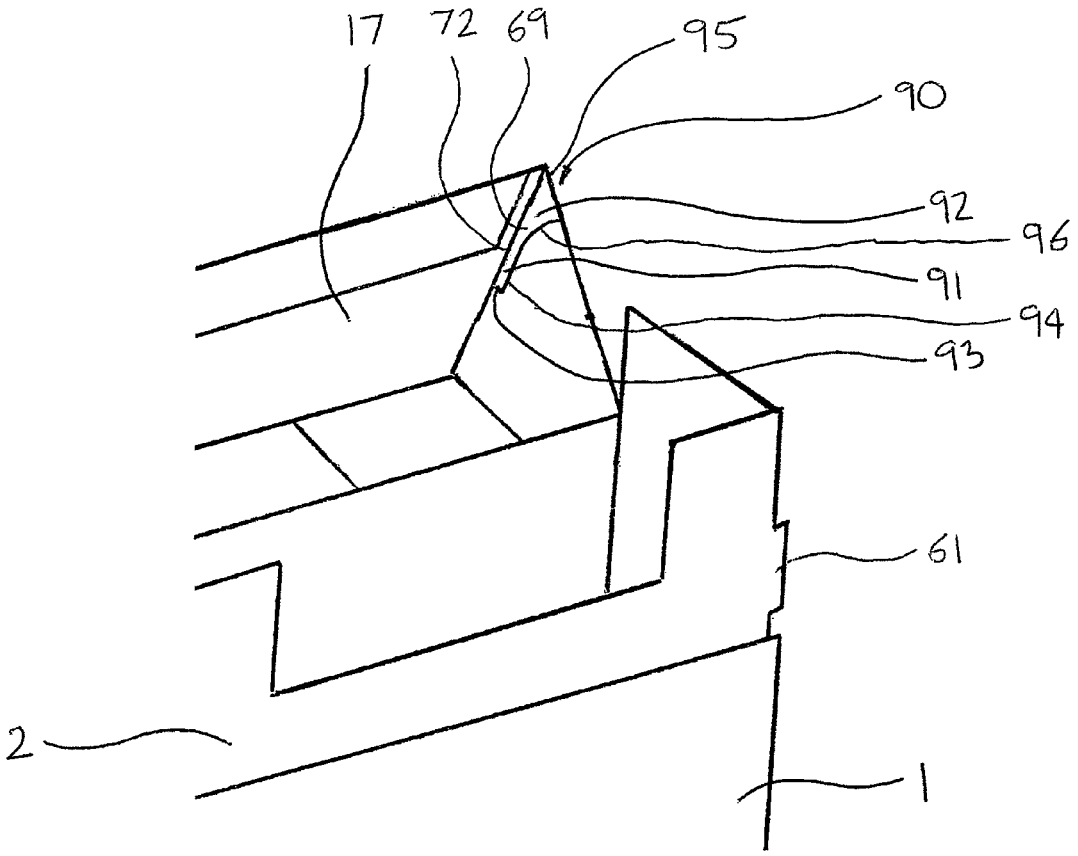

FIGURE 14

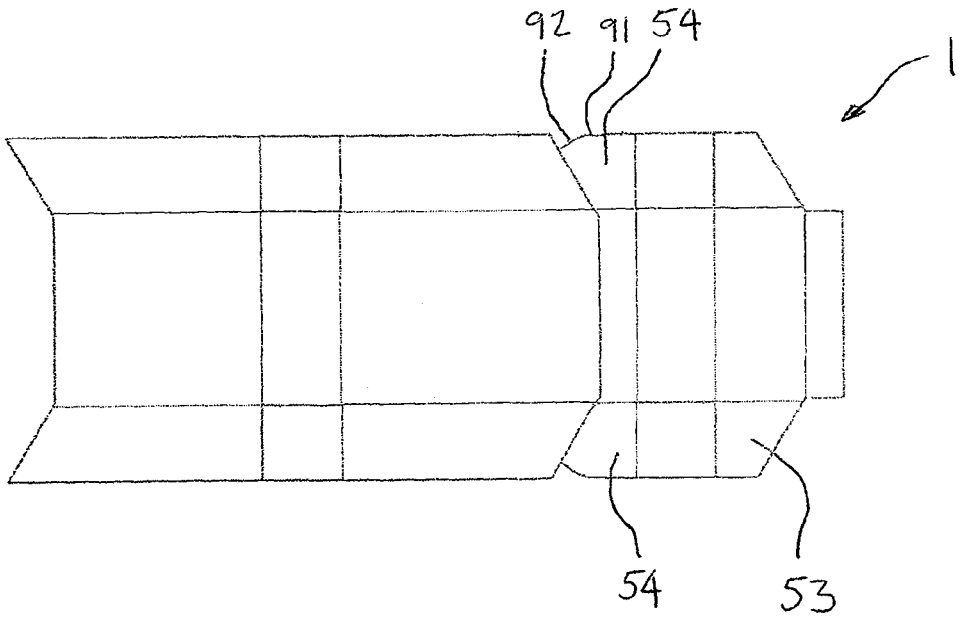

FIGURE 15

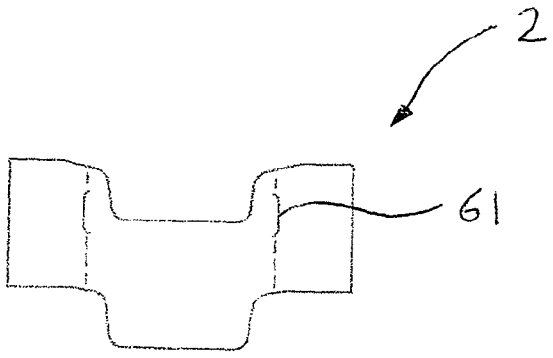

FIGURE 16

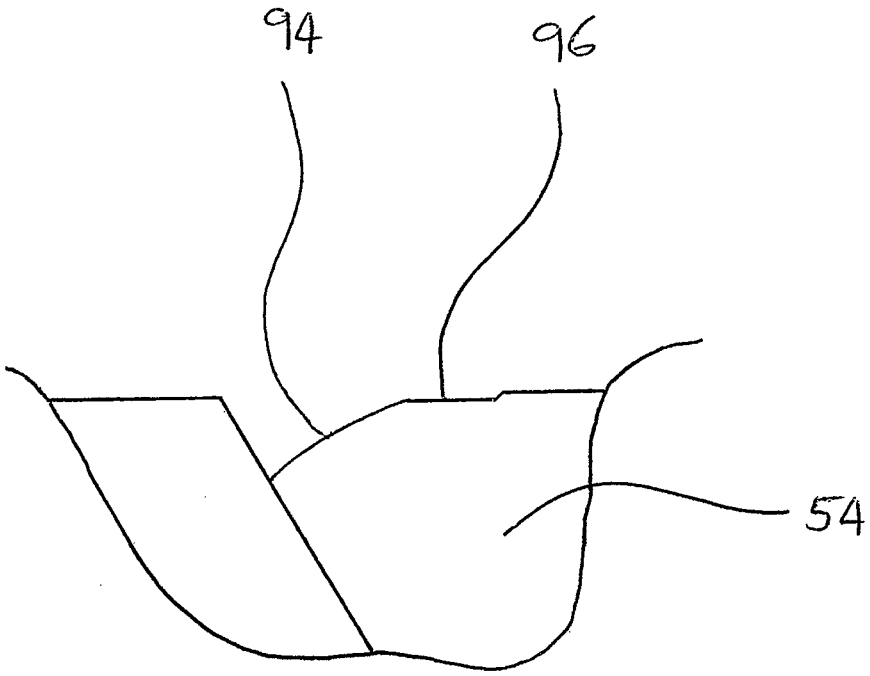

FIGURE 17

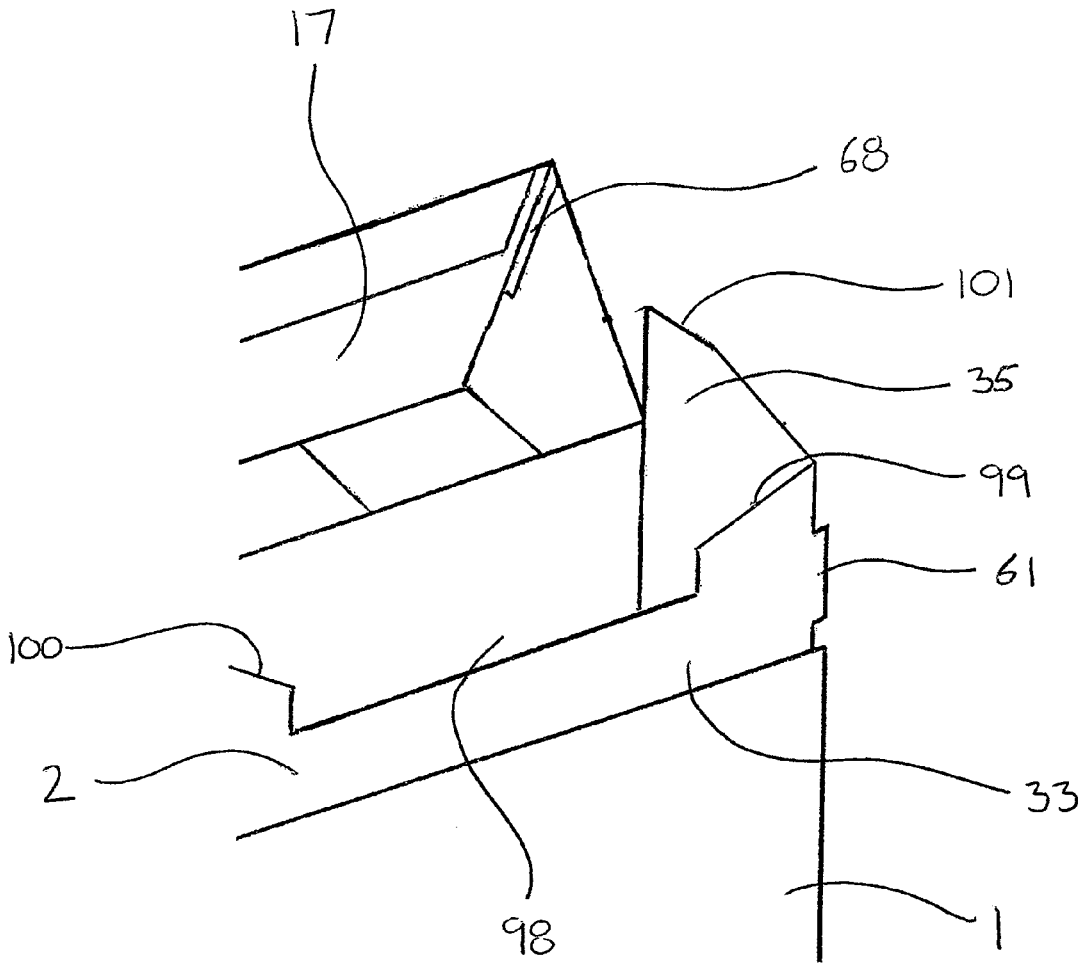

FIGURE 18

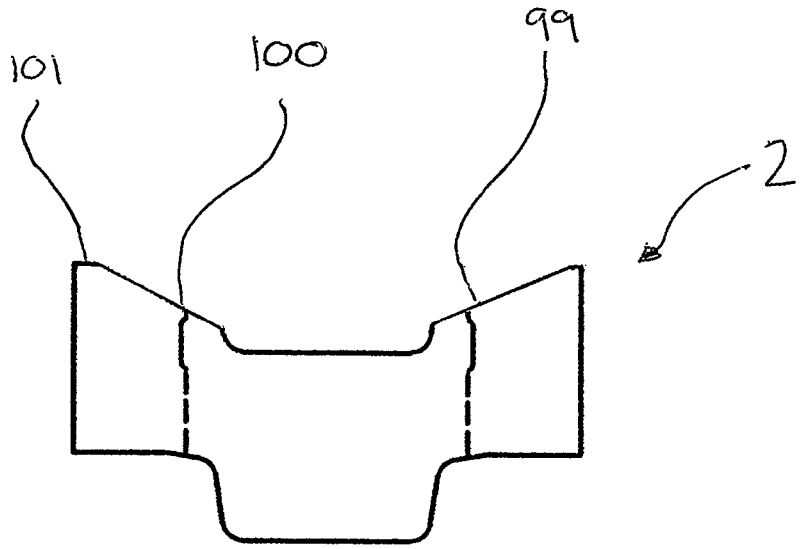

FIGURE 19

PACKAGE FOR SMOKING ARTICLES

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

This application is a National Stage Entry entitled to and hereby claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §§365 and 371 to corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/EP2009/053189, filed Mar. 18, 2009, which in turn claims priority to British Application Serial No. GB 0806700.1, filed Apr. 14, 2008. The entire contents of the aforementioned applications are herein expressly incorporated by reference.

DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to a package, and to blanks for making the package. In particular, the invention relates to hinged-lid packages for smoking articles, but is not limited thereto.

As used herein, the term "smoking article" includes smokeable products such as cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos whether based on tobacco, tobacco derivatives, expanded tobacco, reconstituted tobacco or tobacco substitutes and also heat-not-burn products but is not limited thereto. The smoking article may be provided with a filter for the gaseous flow drawn by the smoker.

Hinged-lid packets are well known to those skilled in the art and are in widespread use in the tobacco industry for holding cigarettes in a crush resistant manner. An example of such a hinged-lid packet is shown in GB 1 431 173 and generally holds ten to twenty individual cigarettes in a predetermined arrangement. Hinged lid packets are typically produced from a pair of cardboard blanks.

A first blank forms the outer shell comprising a main body of a front wall, a rear wall, a pair of side-walls extending between the front and rear walls, a base, and a lid hingedly connected to the rear wall, and a second blank forms an insert or inner shell that is generally mounted to the inside of the front and side walls of the outer shell to project above the outer walls and is exposed when the lid is open. The exposed portion of the inner shell projecting above the walls is covered by front and side walls of the lid portion and is used to generate a seal between the main body and the lid portion when the lid is closed. In particular, the inner shell attempts to retain the lid in a closed position by the inner surfaces of the lid front and side walls frictionally engaging with the exposed surface of the inner shell

However, a problem with conventional packages is that the inner shell does not sufficiently act upon the lid to retain the lid in a closed position, in particular due to the inner shell being mounted to the inner surface of the outer shell and so the inner shell does not project against the lid. In an attempt to overcome this problem, it is known by those skilled in the art to provide tabs or ears which are formed from the inner shell and project outwardly towards the inner surface of the lid when the lid is closed. Such tabs assist in frictionally holding the lid closed by acting against the inner surface of the lid.

A disadvantage of the above arrangement is that the tabs do not actually 'lock' the lid in a fully closed position and a user is not provided with any tactile indication or feedback that the lid has been fully closed. The lid is also prone to 'yawning' or 'smiling' wherein the lid is disposed in a partially open position.

Additionally, in a conventional package, the tabs are permanently pressed against the inner surface of the lid when the lid is closed which may cause the tabs to deteriorate and become ineffective as they may be bent due to forces and pressure acting on the exterior of the outer shell.

The present invention seeks to provide a package that overcomes or substantially alleviates the problems with conventional hinged-lid packages referred to above.

According to the present invention, there is provided a package for smoking articles comprising a body and a lid hingedly connected to the body to enclose a space defined by the body when the lid is closed, the lid including an end portion and a wall extending from the end portion that overlaps a face of the body when closed, wherein a recess is formed in the wall and a tab extends from said face such that, when the lid is closed, the tab locates in said recess.

Preferably, the tab and wall are configured such that they cooperate when the lid is opened or closed, said tab locating in the recess when the lid is closed.

Advantageously, the wall and the tab are configured such that the wall is resiliently deformed by the tab when the tab and wall cooperate with each other.

In one embodiment, the wall and the tab are configured such that the tab is resiliently deformed by the wall when the tab and wall cooperate with each other.

The wall of the lid may be a side wall that lies in a plane extending perpendicular to an axis about which the lid rotates.

The side wall may comprise outer and inner layers and the recess may be defined by a cut-out formed in the inner layer.

In a preferred embodiment, the cut-out extends along one edge of the wall.

Conveniently, the side wall has a first edge that extends from the end portion, the cut-out being formed along a second edge transverse to the first edge.

Preferably, a front wall extends from the second edge, the front wall being substantially perpendicular to the side wall and the end portion.

Conveniently, the side wall has a free edge, said cut-out being open ended and extending to said free edge.

The cut-out may comprise first and second portions, the second portion comprising a side face configured to guide the tab from said free edge to the first portion of the cut-out and the side face may be arcuate.

Advantageously, the side wall has a free edge, said cut-out extending towards said free edge but terminating short thereof.

In a preferred embodiment, the tab extends from one edge of the face of the body.

Preferably, the tab extends transversely from said face of the body.

Advantageously, the tab comprises a pair of tab portions separated by a cut.

Preferably, the tab portions and the recess are configured such that, when the lid is in the closed position, one tab portion locates in the recess and the other tab portion cooperates with an inner surface of the wall.

The body may comprise an inner shell and an outer shell, the inner shell being received in the outer shell and the tab extending from the inner shell such that, when the lid is closed, the wall overlaps the inner shell.

The inner shell may comprise a front wall and at least one side wall, a portion of the front wall and side wall being cut away such that interference between the inner shell and the lid is reduced when the lid is opened or closed.

The lid preferably comprises a pair of opposing walls extending from opposing edges of the end portion that overlap corresponding opposing faces of the body when closed, wherein each wall has a recess formed therein and a tab extends from each face, such that, when the lid is closed, the tabs locate in said recesses.

According to the present invention, there is also provided a package containing smoking articles.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the blank used to form the outer shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **6** is a plan view of the blank used to form the outer shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **7** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **5**;

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **9** is a plan view of the blank used to form the outer shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **8**;

FIG. **10** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **8**;

FIG. **11** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **12** is a plan view of the blank used to form the outer shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **11**;

FIG. **13** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **11**;

FIG. **14** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **15** is a plan view of the blank used to form the outer shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **14**;

FIG. **16** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **14**;

FIG. **17** is an enlarged view of a portion of the blank shown in FIG. **15**;

FIG. **18** is a perspective view of a package for smoking articles showing a tab and recess in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. **19** is a plan view of the blank used to form the inner shell of the package for smoking articles shown in FIG. **18**.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown in FIGS. **1** and **2** a package for smoking articles according to an embodiment of the present invention comprising an outer shell **1** and an inner shell **2**. In FIG. **2**, the dotted lines denote fold lines and the solid lines denote cut-lines as will become apparent in the description below.

The outer shell **1** comprises a main body **3** including a body front wall **4**, a body rear wall **5** (refer to FIG. **2**) disposed parallel to the body front wall **4**, a pair of parallel body side walls **6**,**7** which extend between the body front and rear walls **4**,**5**, perpendicular thereto, and connect therewith along fold lines **8** and a base **9** which extends across the lower ends **11***a-d* of the body front, rear and side walls **4**,**5**,**6**,**7** respectively to enclose the main body **3** at the lower end thereof such that a smoking article receiving space **12** is defined by the main body **3**. Upper ends **14**,**15** of the body side walls **6**,**7** are formed at an incline relative to the lower ends **11***c*,**11***d* such that the body front wall **4** is shorter than the body rear wall **5**. The above arrangement allows easier access to the smoking article receiving space **12** and has additional advantages that will become apparent hereinafter.

The outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are formed from a stiff, resilient material, for example a cardboard or plastic, such that the hinged lid packet retains its shape and so that the contents disposed in the smoking article receiving space **12** are protected.

The outer shell **1** further comprises a lid **17** which is hingedly connected to an upper end **18** of the body rear wall **5** at a hinge line **19**. The lid **17** includes a lid rear wall **20** which is connected to the body rear wall **5** at the hinge line **19**, a lid front wall **21** disposed parallel to the lid rear wall **20**, a pair of parallel lid side walls **22**,**23** which extend between the lid rear and front walls **20**,**21** and connect therewith along fold lines **25** and a top **26** which extends across the upper ends **27** of the lid rear, front, and side walls **20**,**21**,**22**,**23** respectively to enclose the lid **17** at an upper end thereof.

Lower ends **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23** are formed at an incline relative to the upper ends **27** thereof such that, when the lid **17** is rotated about the hinge line **19** so that the body front wall **4** lies parallel to the lid front wall **21**, lower ends **30**,**28**,**29** of the lid front wall **21** and lid side walls **22**,**23** are disposed to lie proximate and parallel to upper ends **31**,**14**,**15** of the body front wall **4** and body side walls **6**,**7** respectively. In the above described position the outer shell **1** is 'closed' and the enclosed smoking article receiving space **12** is defined therein.

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **3**, the inner shell **2** comprises an inner shell front wall **33** and a pair of inner shell side walls **34**,**35**. Each inner shell side wall **34**,**35** extends perpendicularly from the inner shell front wall **33** at fold lines **36**,**37**. A cut-out portion **38** is formed from an upper end **39** of the inner shell front wall **33** and extends therealong and each inner shell side wall has upper ends **42**,**43**. Additionally, a protrusion **44** is formed at a lower end **45** of the inner shell front wall **33**.

The inner shell front and side walls **33**,**34**,**35** are fixedly mounted to inner faces of the main body front **4** and side walls **6**,**7** respectively. The upper ends **39**,**42**,**43** of the inner shell front and side walls **33**,**34**,**35** project above the upper ends **31**,**14**,**15** of the body front and side walls **4**,**6**,**7** respectively.

In the exemplary embodiment described above, the outer shell **1** is formed from a single blank **50** as shown in FIG. **2**. Referring to the outer shell blank **50**, the main body side walls **6**,**7** are formed from first body side flaps **51** extending from the body front wall **4** along fold lines **8***a* and second body side flaps **52** extending from the body rear wall **5** along fold lines **8***b*. When the outer shell **1** is assembled the first body side flaps **51** extending from the body front wall **4** overlap the second body side flaps **52** extending from the body rear wall **5** and are fixedly mounted thereto by means of an adhesive to form the body side walls **6**,**7**.

Similarly, the lid side walls **22**,**23** are formed from first lid side flaps **53** extending from the lid front wall **21** along fold lines **25***a* and second lid side flaps **54** extending from the lid rear wall **20** along fold lines **25***b*. When the outer shell **1** is assembled the first lid side flaps **53** extending from the lid front wall **21** overlap the second lid side flaps **54** extending from the lid rear wall **20** and are fixedly mounted thereto by means of an adhesive to form the lid side walls **22**,**23** such that the first lid side flaps **53** form an outer surface of the lid side walls **22**,**23** and the second lid side flaps **54** form an inner surface of the lid side walls **22**,**23**.

Base flaps **55** extend from a lower end of the second body side flaps **52** and are fixedly mounted to an inner face of the body base **9** to securely form the body base **9** and mount the body base **9** to the body side walls **6**,**7**. Similarly, top flaps **56** extend from the upper end of the second lid side flaps **54** and

are fixedly mounted to an inner face of the lid top **26**, to securely form the lid top **26** and mount the lid top **26** to the lid side walls **22**,**23**.

A return flap **57** extends along an opposing end of the lid front wall **21** to the lid top **26** and is folded and fixedly mounted to a face of the lid front wall **21** (refer to FIG. **1**). The return flap **57** provides additional support for the front wall **21** and strengthens it.

Referring now to FIGS. **1** to **4**, the hinged-lid packet comprises a pair of tabs **60**,**61** extending sideways from the inner shell side walls **34**,**35**. Each tab **60**,**61** extends perpendicular to the inner shell side walls **34**,**35** parallel to the inner shell front wall **33** and along the same plane thereof. Each tab **60**,**61** is formed from the inner shell **2** by means of a cut line **62**,**63** formed in the inner shell side walls **34**,**35**. Each cut line **62**,**63** defines the tabs **60**,**61** which comprise a tab outer edge **64** and a pair of tab side edges **65**,**66**. The pair of tab side edges **65**,**66** extend from the tab outer edge **64** to the respective fold line **36**,**37** such that when the inner shell side walls **34**,**35** are folded with respect to the inner shell front wall **33**, the tabs **60**,**61** extend therefrom. Each tab **60**,**61** has rounded corners (not shown). The tabs **60**,**61** are therefore formed from the same material as the inner shell **1** and so are formed from a resilient material, for reasons that will become apparent hereinafter.

A pair of recesses **68** are formed in the opposing inner surfaces of the pair of lid side walls **22**,**23**. Each recess **68** is formed from a cut-out formed in the second lid side flaps **54** such that a portion of the first lid side flap **53** communicates with an inner region of the lid **17**. Each recess **68** is formed proximate to an edge of the second lid side flaps **54**, such that when the lid **17** is assembled each recess **68** comprises a recess base **69** formed by the first lid side flap **53**, first and second recess side faces **70**,**71** formed by the edges of the cut out formed in the second lid side flaps **54**, a third recess side face **72** formed by an inner surface **73** of the lid front wall **21**, and wherein each recess **68** extends to the respective lower end **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23** such that the recess **68** has an open end **74**. The lower ends **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23** each have a free edge, wherein there is no other wall or portion extending from said edge.

Operation of the hinged-lid packet will now be described with reference to FIGS. **1** to **4**. When the inner and outer shells **1**,**2** are assembled to form the hinged lid-packet and define the enclosed smoking article receiving space **12**, smoking articles (not shown) are disposed in the packet. The lid **17** is then hingedly rotatable to open and close the outer shell **1** such that the smoking articles (not shown) are accessible to a user.

When the lid **17** is rotated from its 'open' position, wherein the enclosed smoking article receiving space is accessible and the lid rear wall **20** is rotated to face the body rear wall **5**, to its 'closed' position wherein the body front wall **4** lies parallel to the lid front wall **21** and lower ends **30**,**28**,**29** of the lid front wall **21** and lid side walls **22**,**23** are disposed to lie proximate and parallel to upper ends **31**,**14**,**15** of the body front wall **4** and body side walls **6**,**7** respectively, the tabs **60**,**61** contact and communicate with the inner surface of the first lid side flaps **53**, which form the lid side walls **22**,**23**, such that each respective tab **60**,**61** and lid side walls **22**,**23** are urged against each other due to the inner shell side walls **34**,**35** being fixedly mounted to the outer shell side walls **6**,**7** and due to the resilience of the packet. Therefore, the lid side walls **22**,**23** are resiliently deformed by the tabs **60**,**61** and the tabs **60**,**61** provide resistance against the lid **17** and restrict the movement thereof. Alternatively, the tabs **60**,**61** are resiliently deformed when each tab **60**,**61** co-operates with its respective lid side wall **22**,**23**.

If a user continues to rotate the lid **17** into its 'closed' position, the recesses **68** are moved relative to the tabs **60**,**61** such that the tabs **60**,**61** locate therein. As the tabs **60**,**61** and lid side walls **22**,**23** co-operate and are urged thereagainst each other, then the tabs **60**,**61** spring into the respectives recesses **68**. This causes an audible sound to be produced as the outer edge **64** of each tab **60**,**61** is released by the first recess side face **70** and springs into the respective recess **68**. As each tab **60**,**61** is then located in a respectively recess then the lid **17** is securely held in a 'closed' position by each tab **60**,**61** locating against the respective first recess side face **70**. The audible sound produced is in the form of a 'click' as each tab **60**,**61** springs into the respective recess **68** and impacts upon a surface therein. The audible sound indicates to the user that the lid **17** is securely held in a 'closed' position.

In a situation where a user requires access to the enclosed smoking article space **12** then the operation is reversed. The lid is rotated into an open position and each tab **60**,**61** contacts the respective first recess side face **70**. As an additional force is applied each tab **60**,**61** or side wall **22**,**23** is resiliently deformed such that each tab **60**,**61** is released from the respective recess **68** and the lid is rotatable into its 'open' position.

Another exemplary embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **5** to **7**. It is noted that the outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are generally the same as those described in the above exemplary embodiment and so further description of these will be omitted, however, in this embodiment the recesses formed in the lid **17** are different.

In this embodiment, a recess **76** is formed in each opposing inner surface of the pair of lid side walls **22**,**23**. Each recess **76** is formed from a cut-out formed in the second lid side flaps **54** such that a portion of the first lid side flap **53** communicates with an inner region of the lid **17**. Each recess **76** is formed proximate to an edge of the second lid side flaps **54**, such that when the lid **17** is assembled the recess comprises a recess base **77** formed by the first lid side flap **53**, first and second recess side faces **78**,**79** formed by the edges of the cut out formed in the second lid side flaps **54**, a third recess side face **80** formed by an inner surface **73** of the lid front wall **21**, and additionally a fourth recess side face **81** is formed proximate to the respective lower end **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23**, such that each recess **76** is fully enclosed and does not extend to the free edge.

An advantage of the recess **76** discussed above is that the recess **76** is fully enclosed such that it cannot be seen from the respective lower end **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23**.

During operation of the hinged-lid packet according to the above embodiment, when the lid **17** is in its 'closed' position, the pair of tab side edges **65**,**66** locate proximate to the second and fourth recess side faces **79**,**81**.

Another exemplary embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **8** to **10**. It is noted that the outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are generally the same as those described in the above exemplary embodiments and so further description of these will be omitted herein, however, in this embodiment the tabs formed in the inner shell **2** are different.

In this exemplary embodiment, the tabs **60**,**61** are formed substantially as before, however, each tab **60**,**61** is divided into first and second tab portions **83**,**84** formed by a cut line **85**. The cut line extends from the fold line **37**, although the tabs **60**,**61** are not folded, to the tab outer edge **64**. Although the tab portions **83**,**84** are shown in this embodiment to be equally sized, it will be understood that the tab portions **83**,**84** may have different dimensions dependent on the positioning of the cut line **85**.

Further, in this embodiment the length of the recesses **68** are determined such that a first tab portion **83** does not locate

in the respective recess **68** when the lid is rotated into its 'closed' position, but so that the second tab portion **84** does extend therein. Subsequently, when the lid is in its 'closed' position, each first tab portion **83** locates against a section **82** of the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** and urges there against or the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** is urged against the first tab portion **83**.

One advantage of dividing a tab **60**,**61** into separate first and second tab portions **83**,**84** is that it allows one tab portion **84** to locate in the respective recess **68** whilst the other tab portion **83** provides resistance against the lid **17** and ensures a close fit therewith. Further, it reduces the number of cuts required to form two separate tabs (not shown) on each inner shell side wall **34**,**35** to produce the same effect.

Although in the above exemplary embodiment the tabs **60**,**61** are shown split, such that the second tab portion **84** locates in the recess **17** and the first tab portion **83** locates against a section **82** of the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** when the lid **17** is in a 'closed' position, it will be understood by a person skilled in the art that the invention is not limited thereto, and that a pair of tabs may be formed to extend from each side of the inner shell front wall on each side distal to each other, wherein one tab locates in a slot and the other tab locates against the inner side wall face when the lid **17** is closed.

Another exemplary embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **11** to **13**. It is noted that the outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are generally the same as those described in the above exemplary embodiments and so further description of these will be omitted herein.

In this exemplary embodiment, the tabs **60**,**61** are formed substantially as described in the embodiment described above with each tab **60**,**61** divided into first and second tab portions **83**,**84** formed by a cut line **85**.

Further, in this embodiment, the pair of recesses **76** are formed in the opposing inner surfaces of the pair of lid side walls **22**,**23**. However, each recess **76** is formed proximate to an edge of the second lid side flaps **54**, such that when the lid **17** is assembled the recess comprises a recess base **77** formed by the first lid side flap **53**, first and second recess side faces **78**,**79** formed by the edges of the cut out formed in the second lid side flaps **54**, a third recess side face **80** formed by an inner surface **73** of the lid front wall **21**, and additionally a fourth recess side face **81** is formed proximate to the respective lower end **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23** such that each recess **76** is fully enclosed and a section **86** of lid side wall is formed between the fourth recess side face **81** and the lower end **28**,**29** of the respective lid side wall **22**,**23**.

Therefore, when the lid **17** is rotated into its 'closed' position, each first tab portion **83** extends into its respective recess **76**, however, the second tab portion **84** does not locate in the respective recess **68** because it locates against a section **86** of the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** and urges there against or the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** is urged against the second tab portion **84**.

Another exemplary embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **14** to **17**. It is noted that the outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are generally the same as those described in the exemplary embodiment shown in FIGS. **1** to **4** and so further description of these will be omitted herein, however, in this embodiment the recesses formed in the opposing inner surfaces of the pair of lid side walls **22**,**23** are different.

In this exemplary embodiment, the recesses **90** are formed substantially as before, however, in this embodiment each recess **90** is divided into inner and outer recess portions **91**,**92**. Each recess **90** is formed from a cut-out formed on the second lid side flaps **54** such that a portion of the first lid side flap **53** communicates with an inner region of the lid **17** to form a recess base **69**. Each recess **90** is formed proximate to an edge of the second lid side flaps **54**, such that when the lid **17** is assembled each recess comprises a third recess side face **72** formed by an inner surface **73** of the lid front wall **21**.

However, in this embodiment the inner recess portion **91** comprises a first side face **93** and a second side face **94** formed by the edges of the cut-out. The second side face **94** of the inner recess portion **91** extends parallel to the third recess side face **72**. The inner recess portion **91** communicates with the outer recess portion **92** at an opposing end to the first side face **93** of the inner recess portion **91**. The outer recess portion **92** extends from the inner recess portion **91** to the respective lower end **28**,**29** of the lid side walls **22**,**23** such that the outer recess portion **92** has an open end **95**.

The outer recess portion **92** comprises an arcuate side face **96** extending from the second side face **94** of the inner recess portion **91** and opposing the third recess side face **72**. The arcuate side face **96** of the outer recess portion **92** arcs away from the third recess side face **72** such that the width of the outer recess portion **92** proximate to the open end **95** is greater than the width of the outer recess portion **92** proximate to the inner recess portion **91**. The arc of the arcuate side face **96** corresponds to the arcuate movement of the tab **61** relative to the respective lid side wall **22**,**23** as the lid **17** is rotated between its 'open' and 'closed' position. As the lid **17** is rotated into its 'closed' position, the tab is guided into the inner recess portion **91** by the outer recess portion **92**. It will be understood that the inner and outer recess portions **91**,**92** may have different dimensions dependent on the positioning of the tab **61**.

Further, in this embodiment the length of the recesses **68** are determined such that the tab **61** locates in the inner recess portion **91** when the lid is rotated into its 'closed' position. Subsequently, when the lid is in its 'closed' position, each tab **61** locates against the recess base **69** and urges thereagainst.

One advantage of the above embodiment is that it allows the outer recess portion **92** to act as a guide for a corresponding tab **61** such that the tab **61** properly locates in the respective inner recess portion **91**, when the lid **17** is closed. Further, it reduces any noise produced when the tab **61** locates in the inner recess portion **91** as the lid **17** is closed.

Although in the above exemplary embodiment the outer recess portion **92** is shown to have an arcuate recess side face **96**, it will be understood by a person skilled in the art that the invention is not limited thereto, and that the arcuate recess side face **96** may be formed to have a straight edge which extends at an angle from the first side face of the first recess portion **91** to the open end **95**, such that the width of the outer recess portion **91** at the open end **95** is greater than the width of the outer recess portion **92** proximate to the inner recess portion **91**.

Another exemplary embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **18** and **19**. It is noted that the outer and inner shells **1**,**2** are generally the same as those described in the above exemplary embodiments and so further description of these will be omitted herein, however, in this embodiment the upper ends of the inner shell front and side walls **33**,**34**,**35** are different.

In this exemplary embodiment, the inner shell **2** comprises a cut-out portion **98** formed from the inner shell front wall **33** and extends therealong, and slice portions **99**,**100** of the upper ends of the inner shell front wall **33** extending from the cut-out portion **98** and extending across upper ends **101** of each inner shell side wall **34**,**35**. Each slice portion **99**,**100** reduces the height of the inner shell front and side walls **33**,**34**,**35** proximate to the front wall **33** such that the upper

ends of the inner shell front and side walls **33**,**34**,**35** do not impact the lid **17** as the lid **17** is rotated between its 'open' and 'closed' positions. Therefore, the interference between the lid **17** and the inner shell **2** is reduced or eliminated when the lid **17** is rotated between its 'open' and 'closed' positions.

It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that the above embodiment, wherein the inner shell **2** features slice portions **99**,**100** which reduce or eliminate the interference between the inner shell **2** and the lid **17**, may be used in conjunction with any of the other embodiments of the invention described herein. Although in each of the above described exemplary embodiments a pair of tabs are utilised, one extending on each side of the inner shell front wall, the invention is not limited thereto and a tab may be formed on only one side of the inner shell front wall. Alternatively, a plurality of tabs may be formed to extend from each side of the inner shell front wall to locate in a plurality of slots formed in the inner face of the lid side wall.

Further, although tabs are shown in the exemplary embodiments to extend sideways from the edge of the front wall of the inner shell, the invention is not limited thereto and the tabs may project perpendicularly from the face of the sidewalls of the inner shell distal from the fold lines **36**,**37**. Additionally, in the above exemplary embodiments the hinged-lid packet is formed from an inner and outer shell wherein the tabs are formed on the inner shell, in an alternative embodiment the tabs may be formed on an outer shell.

Although embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that variations may be made to the above exemplary embodiment that lie within the scope of the invention, as defined in the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A package for smoking articles, comprising:

a body; and

a lid hingedly connected to the body forming an enclosed space defined by the body when the lid is closed, the lid including an end portion and a side wall extending from the end portion that overlaps a side face of the body when closed,

wherein a recess is formed in the side wall and a tab extends from said side face, such that the tab contacts the side wall in which the recess is formed when the lid is pivoted towards its closed position, the tab locating in the recess in the side wall when the closed position is reached and

wherein the recess comprises an inner recess portion and an outer recess portion, the inner recess portion having a first side face perpendicular to a second side face, and the outer recess portion having an arcuate side edge configured to guide the tab into the inner recess portion towards the first side face when the lid is pivoted towards its closed position.

2. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the side wall and the tab are configured such that the side wall is resiliently deformed by the tab when the tab and the side wall cooperate with each other.

3. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the side wall and the tab are configured such that the tab is resiliently deformed by the side wall when the tab and the side wall cooperate with each other.

4. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the side wall lies in a plane extending perpendicular to an axis about which the lid rotates.

5. The package according to claim **4**, wherein the side wall comprises outer and inner layers.

6. The package according to claim **5**, wherein the recess is defined by a cut-out formed in the inner layer.

7. The package according to claim **6**, wherein the cut-out extends along one edge of the side wall.

8. The package according to claim **7**, wherein the side wall has a first edge that extends from the end portion, the cut-out being formed along a second edge transverse to the first edge.

9. The package according to claim **8**, wherein a front wall extends from the second edge, the front wall being substantially perpendicular to the side wall and the end portion.

10. The package according to claim **6**, wherein the side wall has a free edge, said cut-out being open ended and extending to said free edge.

11. The package according to claim **10**, wherein the cut-out comprises first and second portions, the second portion comprising a side face configured to guide the tab from said free edge to the first portion of the cut-out.

12. The package according to claim **11**, wherein the side face is arcuate.

13. The package according to claim **6**, wherein the side wall has a free edge, said cut-out extending towards said free edge but terminating short thereof.

14. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the tab extends from one edge of the face of the body.

15. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the tab extends transversely from said face of the body.

16. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the tab comprises a pair of tab portions separated by a cut.

17. The package according to claim **16**, wherein the tab portions and the recess are configured such that, when the lid is in the closed position, one tab portion locates in the recess and the other tab portion cooperates with an inner surface of the side wall.

18. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the body comprises an inner shell and an outer shell, the inner shell being received in the outer shell and the tab extending from the inner shell such that, when the lid is closed, the side wall overlaps the inner shell.

19. The package according to claim **18**, wherein the inner shell comprises a front wall and at least one side wall, a portion of the front wall and the at least one side wall being cut away such that interference between the inner shell and the lid is reduced when the lid is opened or closed.

20. The package according to claim **1**, wherein the lid comprises a pair of opposing walls extending from opposing edges of the end portion that overlap corresponding opposing faces of the body when closed, wherein each wall has a recess formed therein and a tab extends from each face, such that, when the lid is closed, the tabs locate in said recesses.

21. A package for smoking articles, comprising a body and a lid hingedly connected to the body forming an enclosed space, the enclosed space containing smoking articles and defined by the body when the lid is closed, the lid including an end portion and a side wall extending form the end portion that overlaps a side face of the body when closed, a recess formed in the side wall, said recess comprising an inner recess portion having a first side face perpendicular to a second side face and an outer recess portion, and a tab extending from said side face, such that the tab contacts the side wall in which the recess is formed when the lid is pivoted towards a closed position, the tab locating in the inner recess portion in the side wall when the closed position is reached, the outer recess portion comprising an arcuate side edge configured to guide the tab into the inner recess portion towards the first side face when the lid is pivoted towards its closed position.

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